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GYPSY MOTH AND FEDERAL COST-SHARING

The Administration's position on the proper Federal role in forest insect control programs was recently explained in a letter from USDA Secretary Block to Senator Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire.

"The Federal Government does not have a legitimate role in direct financial support of ongoing and predictable forest insect suppression activities on private and non-Federal public lands." According to Secretary Block, the USDA intends to continue an orderly phase out of Federal cost-sharing for gypsy moth control. It was added, however, that cost-sharing arrangements may be legitimate for carrying out direct suppression activities in areas where Federal lands are intermingled or adjacent with private lands.

NO RPAR FOR PARAQUAT

EPA decided not to issue a Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration (RPAR) for paraquat. This decision was influenced when the registrant, Chevron Chemical, agreed to voluntarily cancel certain noncrop sites and one pasture application, which EPA feels present high exposure potential.

Paraquat underwent pre-RPAR review because of possible chronic effects and lack of an emergency treatment or antidote (see Pesticide Quarterly No. 9).

Paraquat, if you recall, is the herbicide that has been in the news because of its use to control marijuana.

PESTICIDE TRAINING MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The USDA Forest Service recently conducted pesticide training sessions to help Forest Service employees prepare themselves for Federal and State examinations leading to certification as pesticide applicators to use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides.

The sessions featured instruction by experts from universities, private industry, State, Federal, and other government agencies, including the Forest Service. Many of the presentations by these experts were recorded on 3/4 inch video cassettes and are available for loan from the Forest Service.

The tapes are excellent training tools and could be used to supplement pesticide training activities by Federal and State agencies as well as by private individuals.

A brochure is being prepared that will summarize the message on each tape listed below. For further information, contact Charles Hatch, NA,S&PF, USDA Forest Service, 370 Reed Road, Broomall, PA 19008, telephone (215) 461-3169 or FTS 8-489-3169.

1. "Pesticides - Fate in the Environment" - 50 minutes.
by Dr. Logan Norris, USDA Forest Service.
2. "Pesticides and Public Relations" - 45 minutes.
by Lester DeCoster, American Forestry Institute.
3. "Managing Vegetation with Herbicides - Part I" - 50 minutes.
by Dr. Maxwell L. McCormack, Jr., University of Maine.
4. "Managing Vegetation with Herbicides - Part II" - 50 minutes.
by Dr. Maxwell L. McCormack, Jr., University of Maine.
5. "Classification of Pesticides" - 30 minutes; and "Pesticide Labels" - 26 minutes. by Dr. Winand Hock, Pennsylvania State University.
6. "Pesticide Formulations" - 37 minutes.
by Dr. Winand Hock, Pennsylvania State University.
7. "Pesticide Safety" - 45 minutes.
by Dr. Winand Hock, Pennsylvania State University.

LINDANE UPDATE

EPA's position regarding proposed cancellation actions against lindane are reported to have changed from the initial Position Document (PD 2/3) published in the Federal Register on July 3, 1980 (see Pesticide Quarterly No. 8).

Forest Service representatives were told at a recent briefing with EPA that after reviewing much new information and after reevaluating the lindane data, most uses of the insecticide, including forestry uses, would be retained.

TORDON

Picloram, the common name for DOW's TORDON® herbicide, received national attention recently following reports of a possible link between the chemical and rising cancer rates in Cherokee County, North Carolina. Picloram is an important vegetation management tool for controlling weeds that jeopardize forests, farms, and rights-of-way. Dow says that the allegation is "a panicky appeal designed to exploit the emotion-charged 'Agent White' and Vietnam controversy." EPA says there is "no current evidence that picloram is posing risks of unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment."

2,4,5-T

There have been no new developments regarding the cancellation of 2,4,5-T. Negotiations between DOW and EPA continue with no indication of progress. A Dow spokesman recently said that "the company is hopeful that major uses of 2,4,5-T will be reinstated." He was reluctant to guess when this might be.

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